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TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
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SUBJECT: MI School Data – Opportunity for Preview and Release Schedule Including Annual Education Report (AER) and Dashboard

The Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) has been leading development of MI School Data in partnership with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and our intermediate school district partners including Macomb ISD, Calhoun ISD, and Shiawassee RESD. We are pleased to announce that the tool will be available for preview at www.mischooldata.org on August 1, 2011 and for public access on August 15, 2011. The site will be a Web-based location for the Michigan education community, the public, and researchers to access Michigan education data. This site, along with the State Longitudinal Data System, is intended to house and make accessible all state-level preschool through postsecondary (P-20) public education data sets. This communication provides details of plans to launch MI School Data over the next few weeks.

The initial data to be available in MI School Data will include assessment results (MEAP, MME, and MI-Access), the Annual Education Report (AER), student count, the School Report Card and some drill-down metrics from the Michigan Education Dashboard at <http://www.michigan.gov/midashboard>. On Monday, August 1, 2011, authorized users will be able to log in and preview the site and the data it houses before it is available to the public. Note that this is not an additional appeal window for these collections. The data provided on the MI School Data site already have been reviewed by local districts offered through an appeal process. However, authorized users will be able to report display anomalies in the data during the preview period.

MI School Data builds on the Data for Student Success (Data4SS) project. The Data4SS Dynamic Inquiry tool will continue to be updated and supported during the rollout of this new data portal. User administration will be common between MI School Data and Data4SS, and your login credentials will work for both systems. Data4SS user administrators have received a communication on how to set user permissions to allow password-protected access to the site for the preview window.

Access to MI School Data for preview is provided to schools and districts in advance of release to the public and news media. The embargo of this data will be lifted on Monday, August 15, 2011. At that time, school and district staff can notify parents of the Annual Education Report (AER) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status, and share data with the public and news media as they deem appropriate. Release of school and district results in advance of August 15, 2011 is strictly prohibited and will jeopardize the preview courtesy for your school or district in the future.

As stated, AER will now be available through MI School Data. AER provides detailed data to meet federal and state reporting requirements. Districts will have access to the AER during the preview window to prepare AER reports and related cover letters that must be posted on district and school Web sites 15 days before the beginning of school. MDE sent you a communication about the AER on June 16, 2011, which may also be found at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/FAQ_on_AER_355832_7.pdf.

The Michigan Education Dashboard drill-down metrics provided in MI School Data will initially include several of the data elements necessary to meet the school district dashboard portion of the Financial Best Practices incentive payment requirements under the State School Aid Act. MDE guidance on this issue was sent to you on June 30, 2011. That guidance may be found at: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_6605-258500--,00.html.

The MI School Data team also is preparing the next release of data for the MI School Data site, to be available in September 2011. This release will include graduation rates, non-resident enrollment data, college readiness, ACT results, principal effectiveness and postsecondary enrollment and persistence rates for our public high schools. Authorized users of MI School Data will receive separate notices of the September preview and release dates.

CEPI has developed tools to convey messages to the field about the MI School Data site. We have provided a PowerPoint overview of plans for the site at the MI School Data link on the main CEPI Web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/cepi>.

Additional information will be shared over the next few months regarding MI School Data. Macomb ISD, one of our partner ISDs, has established a helpdesk for the purpose of providing support for the MI School Data initiative; please contact helpdesk@misd.net with questions.